

P-421/CP-91-487 ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS AND DIRECTING
THE INSTALLATION OF EXTENDED AREA SERVICE

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm
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Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for
Extended Area Service From
Braham to Mora

ISSUE DATE: May 5, 1993

DOCKET NO. P-421/CP-91-487

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS
AND DIRECTING THE INSTALLATION
OF EXTENDED AREA SERVICE

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On June 27, 1991, subscribers in the Braham exchange filed two extended area service (EAS) petitions: one for EAS between the Braham exchange and the Pine City exchange and one for EAS between the Braham and Mora exchanges.

On October 22, 1991, the Commission issued an Order denying the petition for EAS between Braham and Pine City for failure to meet the traffic requirement of Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1990), found that the proposed Braham-Mora route met both the adjacency and the traffic requirements and, accordingly, directed U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC) to file cost and rate information for the Braham-Mora route.

On December 20, 1991, USWC filed its costs and proposed rates for the Braham-Mora route.

On February 3, 1992, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) filed its report and recommendation regarding those costs and proposed rates.

On February 24, 1992, USWC filed comments regarding the Department's recommendation.

On March 27, 1992, USWC filed a new cost study and proposed rates and made a corrected filing on April 6, 1992.

The Department filed its report and recommendation regarding USWC's further cost studies and proposed rates and USWC responded on June 1, 1992.

On November 24, 1992, the Commission issued an Order adopting EAS rate additives for the EAS route proposed between Braham and Mora and requiring U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC) to cooperate fully with Commission Staff and Commission contractors to expedite the polling of Braham subscribers.

On April 24, 1993, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Polling of customers in the Braham exchange took place between February 12, 1993 and April 12, 1993. The Commission finds that the polling was properly conducted and recorded. No party alleged irregularities in the process or contested the results. Of the 1,093 Braham subscribers who returned their polling ballots, 562 or 51.4 percent favored the proposed EAS while 531 or 48.6 percent opposed it. Based on these results, the Commission finds that the Braham petition has met the third and final criterion established by Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 1 (1992).

Accordingly, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 1 (1992) the Commission will grant the petition and require USWC (the telephone company serving the Braham and Mora exchanges) to install EAS between those two exchanges. If USWC seeks to recover nonrecurring expenses due to the implementation of EAS, it must file a proposal for recovery of those expenses no later than 120 days prior to the planned implementation date of the EAS.

ORDER

1. The Commission hereby certifies the polling results set forth in the text of this Order.
2. Consistent with the requirements of this Order, U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC) shall proceed expeditiously to implement extended area service (EAS) between the Braham and Mora exchanges.
3. USWC shall file an implementation plan and schedule with the Commission within 60 days of this Order and shall file updated implementation schedules with the Commission every 90 days thereafter.

4. Within 10 days of this Order, USWC shall file a proposed polling results notice with Commission Staff. The proposed notice shall be directed to subscribers in the Braham and Mora exchanges, informing them of the polling results.
5. After the polling results notice has been approved by Commission Staff, USWC shall issue such notice to subscribers in the Braham and Mora exchanges as a bill insert included in the earliest possible billing cycle.
6. At least 90 days before the start of the service, USWC shall submit to Commission Staff for approval a second bill-insert type notice. This notice shall 1) describe the EAS service, 2) instruct customers on dialing, 3) inform subscribers regarding the EAS rate additives applicable in each exchange, and 4) inform subscribers of the proposed implementation date. USWC shall distribute an approved notice as a bill-insert in the billing cycle that concludes one month before the EAS is implemented.
7. Thirty days before implementing the EAS between Braham and Mora, USWC shall file tariff sheets reflecting the prior Commission Order establishing the rates for EAS in each of the exchanges.
8. If USWC wishes to request recovery of nonrecurring expenses incurred due to the implementation of EAS, it shall file that request at least 120 days before the planned implementation date.
9. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)